Fall 2014  
  
Hello -  
  
This letter is to introduce myself as your son or daughters AVID, Special Education Geography, or School Leadership, Teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School. My name is Eric Perry, and this is hard to believe but this is my 5th year of teaching at TJ and I am truly living my dream.

This year, I am overly excited to be taking on another new challenge – teaching ‘Introduction to AVID’ (9th grade). ‘AVID’ stands for the Advancement via Individual Determination. It is a global nonprofit organization/curriculum dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and other postsecondary opportunities. <http://www.avid.org/what-is-avid.ashx> . I am also excited about as this year I will return to my teaching roots by teaching Geography within the Special Education Department. Lastly, for my second straight year I will also be co-teaching the Leadership class to hand-picked students from all grade levels at TJ.

Prior to teaching I graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Economics, and in 1996 I completed my Master’s degree in Organizational Management, where I graduated at the top of my class. In 2012, I completed my Teaching Certificate in Special Education from Metro State College in Denver. Last October (2013), I attended several trainings and earned my certification to teach AVID. I am the head football coach at Hamilton Middle School (TJ’s largest feeder school). In my former life, I worked in corporate America for 20+ years, including at IBM, Anthem of Colorado, Chase Bank, Spherion Consulting and National Jewish Health.

This summer (2014), my wife (also a DPS Teacher) and I welcomed a new baby girl ‘Kiana Drew Perry’ to our family. In what little spare time is left (wink), we enjoy working out, travelling and some of the great outdoor activities that Colorado offers. Most summers we love to travel to California to decompress from the busy school year. We also enjoy camping, fishing, hiking and cheering on our favorite home teams: CSU Rams, Denver- Broncos, Nuggets, and Colorado- Rockies and Avalanche.

My philosophy on teaching is much like life in that we are all different but each student brings value to the table. It is my passion to discover what that value is and how it can be used so that each student maximizes their academic and work-life success.

I am looking forward to a great 2014-2015 school year and working with each of my students and TJ faculty. I can be reached using the following contact information.   
  
**Go Spartans!**

**Eric Perry**  
  
AVID / Geography / Leadership Teacher  
Thomas Jefferson High School

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At the desk where I sit, I have learned one great truth. The answer for all the problems of the world - come to a single word. That word is "education…” Lyndon B. Johnson